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(74) Agents: DONALD, HEATHER, June et al.; Spoor & Fisher, PO Box 41312, 2024 Craighall (ZA).

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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): ELEMENT SIX (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED [ZA/ZA]; Debid Road, Nuffield, 1559 Springs (ZA).

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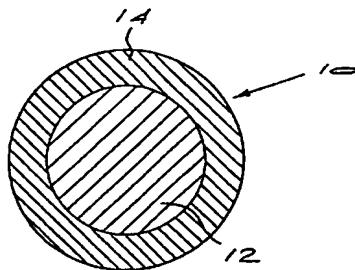
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(72) Inventors; and  
(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): SIGALAS, Iakovos [ZA/ZA]; 112 Third Street, 2195 Linden (ZA). DAVIES, Geoffrey, John [ZA/ZA]; 36 Boundary Road, Linden Extension 3, 2194 Randburg (ZA). MASETE, Mosimane-gape, Stephen [ZA/ZA]; 190 Leopard Rock, Hendrinah Street, Ridgeway Ext 8, 2091 Johannesburg (ZA).

(54) Title: COMPOSITE MATERIAL

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(57) **Abstract:** A composite material comprises a plurality of cores of material selected from the group comprising carbides, nitrides, carbonitrides, cemented carbides, cemented nitrides, cemented carbonitrides and mixtures thereof, dispersed in a matrix. The matrix comprises the components for making an ultra-hard material, such as diamond or cBN abrasive particles, and a suitable binder. The ultra-hard material is polycrystalline in nature and is typically PCD or PCBN. The cores are typically provided as individual particles or in the form of granules. The granules may be further coated with a second coating, which may be a similar material to that of the cores or of an ultra-hard material of a different grade to that of the first coating. The composite material typically takes on a honeycomb structure of a hard material and cores within the pores of the honeycomb structure bonded to the honeycomb structure. The pores of the honeycomb structure may be ordered or random. A method of producing the composite material and a method of producing a tool component incorporating such a material are also provided.